

## Caring For Pets after Dental Procedures

**What to expect:** Your pet's mouth may be sore after a dental procedure. This is especially true if it was necessary to extract teeth. In this case, there may be a bloody tinge to your pet's saliva for a day or so. If your pet's teeth are stained, they will not be perfectly white. We do not routinely bleach (whiten) teeth in veterinary dentistry. Most dogs and some cats require teeth cleaning every year or two. Some animals require more frequent attention. You will lengthen the time interval between cleanings by routinely brushing your pet's teeth.

**Proper Restraint** is important after your pet's dental procedure. Please use a leash or carrier to protect your pet when leaving the hospital. Do not allow your pet to become overly excited. After anesthesia, an overly excited pet is prone to injury.

**Food and Water** are important for recovery from dental procedures, but for the first 12 hours after anesthesia, it is important to limit food and water intake. This will prevent vomiting. If the doctor prescribed a special diet, be sure to follow the instructions carefully. It is usually not necessary to feed your pet soft food after a dental procedure.

- Feed your pet its regular diet, beginning with small feedings.
- Feed multiple small meals \_\_\_\_\_ times per day.
- Special diet instructions: \_\_\_\_\_.

Many patients may not have a bowel movement for 24-48 hours after anesthesia.

**Exercise** must be limited as your pet recovers from anesthesia. Block stairs and avoid situations that risk injury. Your pet may remain groggy for up to 24 hours after anesthesia.

**Antibiotics** are prescribed to all pets having dental procedures. Antibiotics prevent the spread of oral bacteria to other parts of the body. Dental cleaning may disturb the gingiva and allow bacteria to enter the blood stream. Oral antibiotics are given for one to two weeks after dental procedures. Make sure that all antibiotics are given.

**Monitor** your pet's status. You may observe decreased appetite or activity for one or two days. However, if your pet exhibits any of these symptoms, please contact the hospital immediately:

- Loss of appetite for more than two days.
- Refusal to drink for more than one day.
- Weakness
- Depression
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

### Special Instructions:

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